

Rabies Control and Eradication

§169.22. Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) - (3) (No change.)

(4) Currently vaccinated - Vaccinated and satisfying the following criteria.

(A) The animal must have been vaccinated against rabies according to the label recommendations of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved vaccine.

(B) (No change.)

(C) The time elapsed since the most recent vaccination has not exceeded the label recommendations for the vaccine.

(5) - (31) (No change.)

§169.27. Quarantine Method and Testing.

(a) When a domestic dog, cat, or domestic ferret which has bitten a human has been identified, the owner or custodian will be required to place the animal in quarantine until the end of the 10-day observation period. Unvaccinated animals should not be vaccinated against rabies during the observation period; however, animals may be treated for unrelated medical problems diagnosed by a veterinarian. The observation period will begin at the time of the bite incident. If the animal becomes ill during the observation period, the local rabies control authority must be notified by the person having possession of the animal. The animal must be placed in a department licensed facility specified by the local rabies control authority and observed at least twice daily. However, the local rabies control authority may allow the animal to be placed in a veterinary clinic. As an alternative, the local rabies control authority may allow home quarantine if the following criteria can be met.

(1) (No change.)

(2) The animal has been vaccinated against rabies and the time elapsed since the most recent vaccination has not exceeded the label recommendations for the vaccine. If an unvaccinated animal is not over four months of age at the time of the bite, it may be allowed home quarantine.

(3) - (4) (No change.)

(b) - (i) (No change.)

§169.29. Vaccination Requirement.

(a) The owner or custodian (excluding animal shelters) of each domestic dog or cat shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies by four months of age. The animal must receive a

booster within the 12-month interval following the initial vaccination. Every domestic dog or cat must be revaccinated against rabies at a minimum of at least once every three years with a rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered according to label recommendations. Livestock (especially those that have frequent contact with humans), domestic ferrets, and wolf-dog hybrids should be vaccinated against rabies. Nothing in this section prohibits a veterinarian and owner or custodian from selecting a more frequent rabies vaccination interval. Health and Safety Code, §§826.014 and 826.015 allow local jurisdictions to establish more frequent rabies vaccination intervals.

(b) Official rabies vaccination certificates shall be issued by the vaccinating veterinarian and contain the following information:

(1) - (4) (No change.)

(5) date vaccination expires (revaccination due date);

(6) rabies tag number if a tag is issued;

(7) veterinarian's signature or signature stamp and license number.

(c) A copy of each rabies vaccination certificate issued shall be retained by the issuing veterinarian and be readily retrievable for a period of not less than five years from the date of issuance.

(d) (No change.)

§169.31. Interstate Movement of Dogs and Cats into Texas.

Each dog and cat over three months of age to be transported into Texas for any purpose shall be admitted only when vaccinated against rabies and the time elapsed since the most recent vaccination has not exceeded the label recommendations for the vaccine. Additionally, identification must be provided by a vaccination certificate showing the date of vaccination, vaccine used, and signature of the licensed veterinarian who administered the vaccine.

§169.32. International Movement of Dogs and Cats into Texas. Each dog and cat over three months of age to be transported into Texas for any purpose shall be admitted only when vaccinated against rabies and the time elapsed since the most recent vaccination has not exceeded the label recommendations for the vaccine. Additionally, identification must be provided by a vaccination certificate showing the date of vaccination, vaccine used, and signature of the veterinarian who administered the vaccine. International movement of dogs and cats into Texas will also include any rules and regulations prescribed by the United States government.

§169.33. Submission of Specimens for Laboratory Examination. Preparation of specimens either for shipment or for personal delivery for rabies diagnosis shall include the following.

(1) - (5) (No change.)

(6) The certified laboratories in Texas are:

(A) Austin - Bureau of Laboratories, Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756, telephone the rabies shipment notification hotline at 1-800-252-8163, or the local telephone at: (512) 458-7595, (512) 458-7515, or (512) 458-7491.

(B) (No Change.)

(C) Houston - Bureau of Laboratory Services, City of Houston Health Department, 1115 South Braeswood, Houston, Texas 77030, telephone: (713) 558-3468 or (713) 558-3467;

(D) San Antonio - Laboratory, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, 332 West Commerce Street, Room 203, San Antonio, Texas 78205, telephone: (210) 207-8884.